Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) & Victim Advocacy Program

Victims of Federal Crimes Symposium
March 7-11 2005

Background

- **The DoD Task Force on the Care for Victims of Sexual Assault**
  - **Operated from February to April 2004**
  - **Studied the sexual assault phenomenon within DoD**
  - **Reported out 35 findings and provided 9 recommendations for further action**
  - **Joint Task Force for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response – Oct 04**

The Way Ahead

The OSD Joint Task Force has initiated 12 Directive Type Memorandums covering:

- **Definition of SA for training purposes**
- **Standardized trainings (Pre-deployment, annual, baseline)**
- **Increase victim support**
- **Commander checklist**
- **Collaboration – MOUs**
- **Collateral Misconduct**
- **Administrative Separation**
- **Response Capability – establishment of SARCs**
- **Confidentiality**
- **CY04 Data Call**

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

- SARC is appointed by the command
- Coordinates resources and assures compliance
- Conducts monthly multidisciplinary case management meeting
- The “go to” person when getting victim the help they request
- Reports environmental safety concerns to command
- Ensure completion of SAIRD

Role of the Victim Advocate

- **Provides support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault**
- **Provides crisis intervention**
- **Provides information and referral to military/civilian resources**
- **Provides safety planning**
- **Accompanies victims to medical exams, investigations and court**
- **Serves as a non-voting member of the Case Review Committee**
- **Provides education and training to individuals and units**

Uniformed Victim Advocates

- **The Task Force identified that service members, particularly activated reservists, were unprepared to recognize and handle the risks in their environment**
- **To support forward deployed, Reserve and Training Commands addressing sexual assault, a uniformed victim advocacy capability has been developed; to date 172 UVAs are trained**
- **The Uniformed Victim Advocate will provide initial support and provide a warm handoff to a supporting installation Victim Advocate**
- **All Battalion, Squadron, and equivalent size commands (e.g. MSSG, CSSD, ETC), Training and Education Command, and Reserve commands will appoint in writing at least two Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA) in the grade of SSgt or higher.**

QUESTIONS